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Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP74B00681R000200120008-0

26 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member, SIGINT Overhead
Reconnaissance Subcommittee

SUBJECT : Statement of Agency Need for SORS
to be Informed of Developments in the
Preparation of USIB SIGINT Guidance
for the NRP Through 1980

1. The attached memorandum is for your use in requesting that SORS be provided with SIGINT resource information in the development of USIB guidance for the National Reconnaissance Program through 1980. This memorandum represents an Agency position which was developed with you and [redacted] the CIA Member Designate to SORS. The CIA SIGINT Officer and the Assistant Deputy Director of Science and Technology have endorsed this request.

2. Dr. Steininger emphasized in his discussion with us that informal discussions would be the most useful means of developing good working relationships along the lines requested in this memorandum. In this connection, he offered to help the Chairmen SORS and SIGINT Committee in any way that they might believe was useful.

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[redacted]
CIA Member
SIGINT Committee

Attachment

[redacted]
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NRO review(s) completed.

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WORKING PAPER

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, SIGINT Overhead
Reconnaissance Subcommittee

SUBJECT : USIB SIGINT Guidance for the National
Reconnaissance Program Through 1980

1. This memorandum deals with the need for more information regarding SIGINT resources within the NRP and primarily those under development for the out years of the program. A recommendation for a series of briefings to be presented to SORS is contained in paragraph 5.

2. It is important that USIB SIGINT guidance for the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) be based upon an understanding of the SIGINT requirements of the USIB members. A detailed knowledge of the present and programmed collection resources is most helpful in the formulation of these requirements; not because available or future collection sensors will necessarily guide requirements, but because the requirements can generally be stated in a much more comprehensive manner if information is available on these collection resources. There is a distinct lack of such information in the hands of individuals presently preparing these requirements.

3. The SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee (SORS) is the instrument for the development of mission guidance for the current SIGINT resources of the NRP and for the development of USIB guidance for the NRP budget and five year program. This program guidance was developed in response to the concern of the Director, NRO that USIB guidance should cover its anticipated needs over a five year period. Accordingly, this five year guidance to be realistic

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should be based upon more extensive knowledge of the capabilities of NRP related resources that are in the R&D and engineering stages as well as those in the current inventory. For the most part, the USIB and SORS are informed of only those NRP resources which have been approved, funded and are either under construction or ready to be launched. Consequently, the USIB five year guidance tends to reflect only those needs which the Committee feels can be satisfied during the early part of this five year period.

4. A much better job of preparing USIB guidance for the NRP budget over a five year period and beyond could be done by the SORS if it were aware of those ideas which are still in the incubation stage and which may lead to resources coming into the NRP inventory in the out years of the program. With a better appreciation of advances in the "state of art" and the potential capabilities of future collection and processing systems, the guidance could be further sharpened to reflect more completely and realistically the Community's needs. One goal of this improved guidance, of course, would be to support the acquisition by the NRO of resources clearly responsive to USIB needs. Correspondingly, the NRO would be in an improved position to judge other resource proposals which would be only marginally responsive.

5. As a first step in this direction, it is suggested that NRO and CIA as well as other USIB member agencies present a series of briefings to the SORS in which they discuss their current R&D, planning and programming for SIGINT related NRP resources through 1980. It is envisioned that later, during each year, periodic updatings of these briefings could be presented to the SORS and/or the SIGINT Committee and such data would be available to both committees at the time of the annual update of the USIB five year guidance.

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CIA Member, SORS

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